

GREATER HEIGHTS AREA COMMUNITY PLAN (2000)

Authoring organization, time frame, geographic area, and primary issues:

Another neighborhood partnership plan produced by the City of Houston's Planning and Development Department, this plan was overseen by the Greater Heights Community Alliance (GHCA). It covers a large area bounded by I-10 West, I-610 West Loop and North Loop, and I-45. It has a five-year time horizon.

The issues addressed by the plan include:

- Infrastructure, Traffic and Transportation
- Youth, Education & Recreation
- Housing & Commercial Development
- Parks, Open Space & Beautification
- Neighborhood Relations

The "Near-North" segment of the Main Street Corridor Master Plan is in the southeast end of the Greater Heights Area. The development on Main Street will have a significant impact on the Super Neighborhood; the plan however does not refer to the planning activities on Main Street.

Plan creation and public involvement:

The plan was initiated by the GHCA and developed through a series of workshops for each of the committees formed to address the plan's major issues.

Plan vision statement:

Plan goals or objectives:

The plan outlines goals for each of the five issues that it seeks to address. The goals are organized under three sections – Residents, Government, Schools & Institutions and, Business & Developers.

Residents

- Be involved in a Greater Heights Area Community organization
- Improve and maintain infrastructure – drainage, streets, alleyways, sidewalks, water and wastewater systems
- Improve traffic circulation and safety and reduce traffic-related nuisances
- Provide information about after-school programs that encourage the interaction and participation of children, youth, parents, and seniors
- Encourage corporate partnerships to underwrite extended day programs at local schools



- Produce a community beautification resource guide to be kept at the Heights Library and area park and recreation centers
- Improve and maintain appearance of area streets
- Preserve the unique character of Greater Heights area neighborhoods
- Encourage commercial development in commercial corridors and elsewhere encourage development that blends with the residential character of the neighborhood
- Promote a small town environment and a sense of community by encouraging interaction among residents
- Increase home ownership
- Improve appearance of properties
- Resolve community problems
- Develop programs and activities that are interesting and offer real work experience for youth
- Upgrade and improve maintenance of parks and open spaces
- Establish the Greater Heights area as a model of tree preservation and planting
- Enhance the quality of life resulting from broad interaction among different elements of society
- Promote adaptive reuse of large vacant properties
- Establish the Greater Heights area as bicycle friendly and connected to adjacent neighborhoods by a network of bikeways, paths, and trails
- Educate residents about deed restrictions and the Pro Bono Deed Restriction Program

Government, Schools, and Institutions

- Improve and maintain infrastructure – drainage, streets, alleyways, sidewalks, water and wastewater systems
- Improve traffic circulation and safety and reduce traffic-related nuisances
- Encourage corporate partnerships to underwrite extended day programs at local schools
- Improve and maintain appearance of area streets
- Preserve the unique character of Greater Heights area neighborhoods
- Encourage commercial development in commercial corridors and elsewhere encourage development that blends with the residential character of the neighborhood
- Promote a small town environment and a sense of community by encouraging interaction among residents
- Increase home ownership
- Improve appearance of properties
- Resolve community problems
- Develop programs and activities that are interesting and offer real work experience for youth
- Upgrade and improve maintenance of parks and open spaces
- Establish the Greater Heights area as a model of tree preservation and planting



- Establish the Greater Heights area as bicycle friendly and connected to adjacent neighborhoods by a network of bikeways, paths, and trails
- Educate residents about deed restrictions and the Pro Bono Deed Restriction Program

Business and Developers

- Improve traffic circulation and safety and reduce traffic-related nuisances
- Provide information about after-school programs that encourage the interaction and participation of children, youth, parents, and seniors
- Improve and maintain appearance of area streets
- Preserve the unique character of Greater Heights area neighborhoods
- Encourage commercial development in commercial corridors and elsewhere encourage development that blends with the residential character of the neighborhood
- Promote a small town environment and a sense of community by encouraging interaction among residents
- Increase home ownership
- Improve appearance of properties
- Develop programs and activities that are interesting and offer real work experience for youth
- Establish the Greater Heights area as a model of tree preservation and planting
- Enhance the quality of life resulting from broad interaction among different elements of society
- Promote adaptive reuse of large vacant properties

Strategies:

Key projects:

The plan contains specific improvement projects identified by the Infrastructure, Traffic and Transportation Committee – ditches that need maintenance, locations for stop signs and speed humps and streets needing resurfacing, and sidewalks among other things. The plan document lists the city’s CIP projects within the planning area but does not try to relate them to the goals or the improvement projects that came out of the planning process.

Implementation and funding:

The plan supports its goals with action plans for implementation. The action items in each section reflect the different roles and responsibilities each of the groups named under the goals can assume and prioritize projects and programs and associate them with resources, and funding strategies. No specific timelines have been assigned to any of the ‘actions’ suggested by the Plan. The plan is also explicit about forming the foundation for a Super Neighborhood Action Plan, thereby providing more official standing in the city’s process for determining future improvements.